Plastic Bag Sculpture – 5th Grade

Objective: Students will be able to:

Learn about the epic proportions of plastic pollution.

Design upcycle artwork that eliminates plastic pollution.

Form and shape a metal armature for a sculpture piece.

Motivation: Day 1

Show a Mockumentary titled " The Majestic Plastic Bag" to the class.

Discuss with the class their reactions and comments about the film. Ask the students if they know of alternatives to using plastic bags. Tell the students that environmental artists help the world by creating artwork that inspire, challenge and motivate people into action about saving the environment. Show the slides of sculptor and educator Angela Haseltine Pozzi's "Washed Ashore Project", featuring giant sculptures made entirely of bottles, plastic, and remains of boats, all collected from the beaches of Oregon by her many volunteers.

Display a plastic bag sculpture of a rooster and explain that plastic bags are the materials needed to construct one. Tell them they need to collect many plastic bags for this project and to organize committees for group collections throughout the school just like the environmentalist artists needed for their artwork.

Model the making of the sculpture by shaping a wire hanger into an obtuse triangle. At the very top form the wire into the head of the rooster. Attach circular wires around this shape from the head to the tail. This will be the armature for the shape of the rooster.

(Once the plastic bags have been collected, sorted into colors and cut the project can begin)

Materials:

Wire hangers

Cut wire pieces in four different lengths;  6", 8", 10"and 12"

Scissors

Masking tape

Collected plastic bags cut into one inch strips and sorted in color bins

Task:

Students shape wire hangers into triangle. Attach tape with names written on to neck.

Students begin bending small wires into a circle and attach at the neck. Continue down the body to the tail leaving an inch of space between each wire.

Assessment:

Did the discussion show a realization for the students to connect art and saving the environment?

Did the armature shape suggest the form of a rooster/ bird?

We're the many wires securely attached?

Differentiation:

Students can work in groups.

Assist with manipulating the wire.

Day 2:

Students will be able to:

Tie strips of plastic to fill and cover armature.

Cut plastic bags into appropriate lengths for tying and filling in the body.

Motivation:

Begin tying strips of colored plastic strips onto wire armature at the head and down the entire body.

Material:

Assorted colored and cut plastic bags

Scissors

Pipe cleaners

Task:

Have students lay plastic bag strips flat and cut into the proper length (shorter at the head and tail and wider through the middle).

Students tie plastic around wire until entire body of rooster is filled in.

Two wire feet are wrapped with plastic or colored pipe cleaners are added for support at the bottom.

Assessment:

Was the form filled with plastic strips?

Differentiation:

Assist with tying strips and measuring lengths.

Blueprint for the Arts- Strand I-Art Making; Strand III-Making Connections

Strand V-Careers and Lifelong Learning

Attachments area

[Preview attachment imagepng.png](https://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=5c55484c93&view=att&th=1515f409ed179361&attid=0.1&disp=safe&zw)

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